

**Wellton Elementary School
29126 San Jose Avenue
Wellton, AZ 85356
928-785-3311**



September 5, 2019

Ms. Lindsey Perry, Manager
Office of the Auditor General
2910 N. 44th St., Suite 410
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Dear Ms. Perry,

Wellton Elementary School District respectfully submits a response to the Performance Audit for fiscal year 2017 conducted by the Office of the Auditor General. The staff members from the Auditor General Office were kind, considerate, and extremely professional during the audit process.

The District agrees with the findings of the audit and will implement the recommendations. Wellton Elementary School District will continue to strive to provide exceptional instruction and to efficiently utilize all funds for the benefit of our students.

The Wellton Elementary School District would like to offer our appreciation to Mr. Gerrad Cawley, Manager, Division of School Audits for his time, patience, and willingness to give guidance during the audit process.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jameson
Superintendent
Wellton Elementary School District

Finding 1: Efficient practices led to lower administrative and food service spending

District response: Wellton Elementary School District accepts and agrees with Finding 1 of the Auditor General's Performance Audit for fiscal year 2017. WES is especially proud of the finding of efficient practices that led to lower administrative and food service spending. The district continually strives to operate as efficiently as possible in order to ensure more funds are used in the areas of student instruction and student support.

Finding 2: Lack of District oversight led to increased student safety risk and insufficient recordkeeping.

District response: Wellton Elementary School District accepts and agrees with Finding 2 of the Auditor General's Performance Audit for fiscal year 2017 and will implement the recommendations.

Recommendation 1: The District should conduct and document random drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers in accordance with its policy and the State's Minimum Standards to help ensure school bus passengers' safety and welfare.

District response: Wellton Elementary School accepts and agrees with Recommendation 1 of the Auditor General findings and will implement the recommendation. It is important to note that bus drivers were drug tested but no documentation was provided to the auditors. In addition, the drug testing was not **randomly** conducted. This will be corrected and WES will meet the State's Standards to continue to ensure the safety and welfare of all school bus passengers. There were no incidents that resulted in student harm during fiscal year 2017.

Recommendation 2: The District should conduct and document school bus preventative maintenance in a systematic and timely manner and in accordance with its policy and the State's Minimum Standards to help ensure school bus passengers' safety and welfare, as well as extend the useful life of its buses.

District response: Wellton Elementary School accepts and agrees with Recommendation 2 of the Auditor General findings and will implement the recommendation. Preventative maintenance for all busses is a priority at Wellton Elementary School District in order to ensure the safety and welfare of all school bus passengers and to comply with the State's Standards. Preventative maintenance was conducted but District Personnel could not provide documentation to the auditors. New personnel and new systems will ensure proper maintenance and documentation. During fiscal year 2017 there were no bus breakdowns or incidents that resulted in student harm.

Recommendation 3: The District should classify all transactions in accordance with the Uniform Chart of Accounts for school districts to ensure it accurately reports its spending.

District response: Wellton Elementary School accepts and agrees with Recommendation 3 of the Auditor General findings and will implement the recommendation. The District has hired a new Business Manager and will classify all transactions in accordance with the Uniform Chart of Accounts for school districts to ensure accurate reporting of spending.